

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 EA-07

IO-11 LAB-04 SIL-01 OPIC-03 SSO-00 /133 W

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P 221150Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5244

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0662

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJ: CIEC DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 9962, STATE 15466, STATE 14278

1. ECONCOUNSELOR SPOKE WITH DR. MOHAMMED YEGANEH ON JANUARY 21 TO MAKE POINTS SET FORTH IN STATE 9962, PARTICULARLY PARA 4, AND TO ELICIT YEGANEH'S VIEWS ON LIKELY IRANINA POSITION AT UPCOMING JANUARY 26 MEETING OF CO-CHAIRMEN. AS DEPT. AWARE, YEGANEH IS FORMER CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN GOVERNOR AND NOW MINISTER OF STATE WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CIEC MATTERS. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION HE OBSERVED THAT PRIME MINISTER AND SHAH HAD RECENTLY INSTRUCTED HIM TO DEVOTE VIRTUALLY
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ALL OF HIS TIME TO CIEC AFFAIRS.

2. YEGANEH AGREES THAT PROCEDURAL MATTERS (PARA 3, STATE 9962) SHOULD BE THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE CO-CHAIRMEN BUT HE SAID ALSO THAT THE JANUARY 26 MEETING OUGHT TO MAKE A BEGINNING ON A PLAN OF WORK FOR THE COMMISSIONS. SPECIFICALLY, HE RECALLED THAT THE GROUP OF 19 HAD SUBMITTED A "SHOPPING LIST" LAST DECEMBER AND THAT SOME SORT OF START WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN A CONSIDERATION OF THESE TOPICS. HE HINTED THAT NOT ALL THE TOPICS ON THE LIST WERE OF EQUAL MERIT BUT WAS DIS-INCLINED TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON ANY OF THE ITEMS.

3. EMBOFF NOTED THAT IT WAS USG VIEW THAT COMMISSION MEETINGS SHOULD BE SHORT (3-5 DAYS) AND OCCUR ONLY EVERY 4-6 WEEKS. (EMBASSY HAD NOT RECEIVED STATE 15466 PRIOR TO CONVERSATION WITH YEGANEH.) YEGANEH EXPRESSED MILD SURPRISE AND SOME DOUBT THAT THIS INITIAL MEETING OF CO-CHAIRMEN COULD BE BROUGHT TO A CLOSE SO QUICKLY BUT DID NOT BELABOR THE POINT. INDICATING LNAT HE WAS MORE OR LESS OPEN-MINDED ON THE FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF THE OF THE MEETINGS, HE SAID THAT A DECISION IN THIS REGARD PROBABLY COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER THE WORKLOAD HAD BEEN CONSIDERED. HE NOTED THAT HE WILL BE DIVIDING HIS TIME IN PARIS FROM JANUARY 26 ONWARD BETWEEN THE CO-CHAIRMEN MEETING AND A MEETING OF OPEC FINANCIAL EXPERTS CONCERNING THE OPEC FUND.

4. YEGANEH HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE DISAGREEMENT ON THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE COMMISSION AS GIVEN IN PARAS 9-12 OF STATE 9962. AS TO THE ISSUE OF GUIDELINES (PARA 4--STATE 9962), WHILE YEGANEH CLEARLY HAS NOT DEVELOPED ANY PRECISE VIEWS IN THIS REGARD, IT IS EQUALLY EVIDENT THAT HE BELIEVES THAT SOME SORT OF ON-GOING CONNECTION MUST EXIST BETWEEN THE COMMISSIONS AND WHAT HE REGARDS AS THE "PARENT BODY," I.E., THE GROUP OF 27. WHILE NOT EXPLICITLY FAVORING A STRONG SUPERVISORY ROLE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF 27, NEITHER DID HE SEEM TO AGREE ENTIRELY WITH THE US VIEW THAT "RESTRICTED AND LARGELY AUTONOMOUS" COMMISSION ARE PREFERABLE. HE BELIEVES THAT A DEGREE OF "POLARIZATION" IN THE COMMISSIONS IS IN ANY CASE INEVITABLE AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO IGNORE THIS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID THAT HE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT RADICAL AND UNPRODUCTIVE RHETORIC SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

5. EMBOFF GAVE TO YEGANEH LIST OF US HEADS OF DELEGATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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RECEIVED FROM HIM NEARLY COMPLETE LIST OF GOI OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING. LATTER LIST TOGETHER WITH AVAILABLE BIO-DATA BEING TRANSMITTED VIA SEPTTEL.

6. YEGANEH IS EVIDENTLY FEELING HIS WAY CAREFULLY IN THE CIEC FIELD. MUCH OF WHAT HE HAS TO SAY WAS TENTATIVE IN NATURE. HE IS BY NATURE A QUIET, SOFT-SPOKEN MAN WHO PROBABLY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH US IN EFFORTS TO DIFFUSE ATTEMPTS

(E.G., BY ALGERIA) TO SWAMP THE COMMISSIONS WITH RADICAL RHETORIC. NONETHELESS, HE WILL NOT STRAY ONE MILLIMETER BEYOND THE BRIEF GIVEN TO HIM BY THE SHAH, WHATEVER THAT MAY BE, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE A STOUT DEFENDER OF THOSE CIEC ISSUES CLOSEST TO IRAN'S HEART, E.G., MAINTENANCE OF PURCHASING POWER OF OPEC COUNTRY INCOME.

7. WE EXPECT TO BE IN INCREASINGLY CLOSE CONTACT WITH YEGANEH IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AS THE CIEC DIALOGUE UNFOLDS. WE WOULD ACCORDINGLY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM USDEL AN EVALUATION BOTH OF YEGANEH'S ROLE AND ATTITUDES IN THE FINANCE COMMISSION AND THOSE OF THE OTHER IRANIANS IN THE ENERGY COMMISSION.
HELMS

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